

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 09421 291142Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----111652 291144Z /23
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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1208

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 09421

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAIR, CGEN, UR, US, KS
SUBJECT: SEOUL ANNOUNCEMENT OF RELEASE OF KAL CREW MEMBERS

1. I HEARD WITH REVULSION THIS MORNING ON BBC NEWSCAST THAT SEOUL HAD ANNOUNCED DEPARTURE PLANS OF DETAINED KAL CREW MEMBERS. AWARE FROM PRESS REPORTS THAT OVER PAST WEEK SEOUL HAD GIVEN ALMOST DAILY PLAY BY PLAY ACCOUNTS OF OUR CONVERSATIONS HERE IN MOSCOW, I HAD MADE OUR REPORTING TELEGRAM EXDIS AND DELIBERATELY DELETED SEOUL AS ADDRESSEE IN THE HOPE THAT WE WOULD WITHHOLD INFORMATION FROM OUR LOQUACIOUS FRIENDS UNTIL A SAFE INTERVAL HAD PASSED.

2. I MUST RUEFULLY OBSERVE THAT WE ARE FAST GETTING REPUTATION HERE OF INABILITY TO KEEP THE LID ON ANYTHING-- A COMPLAINT WHICH HAS SOME JUSTIFICATION AS EVIDENCED BY THIS LATEST INDISCRETION. I CAN ONLY HOPE THAT SEOUL'S ACT OF IRRESPONSIBILITY WILL NOT JEOPARDIZE THE DEPARTURE OF THE CREW MEMBERS TODAY.

3. WE HAVE BEEN BADGERED BY PRESS SINCE EARLY THIS MORNING. SINCE I HAVE CONSISTENTLY FOLLOWED PRACTICE OF NOT LYING TO PRESS, I HAVE INSTRUCTED SPOKESMAN TO SIMPLY SAY NO COMMENT WHEN QUERIED ABOUT SEOUL ANNOUNCEMENT.
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TOON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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